

Commercial Regulations Table

Species	Fishery	Season (Open – Close)	Size Limit	Possession Limit
American Eel <a href="#">(1)</a>	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	9 in.	No Limit
Black Sea Bass <a href="#">(2)</a>	Weirs	Jan 01 – Dec 31	12 in.	No Daily Limit
	All Gears Except Weirs	Jan 01 – Mar 31	12 in.	100 lb.
	Fish Pots	Jul 09 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.*</a>	12 in.	300 lb.
	Hook & Line	Jul 09 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.*</a>	12 in.	150 lb.
	Mobile Gear	Jul 09 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.*</a>	12 in.	150 lb.
<a href="#">Bluefish</a>	All	Jan 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.*</a>	No Limit	5,000 lb.
<a href="#">Cod (3)(4)</a>	North of Cape Cod	Jan 01 – Dec 31	19 in.	200 lb.
	East & South of Cape Cod	Jan 01 – Dec 31	19 in.	1,000 lb.
Dab (Plaice) <a href="#">(3)</a>	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	12 in.	No Limit
<a href="#">Fluke (5)</a>	<b>P1:</b> Nets	Jan 01 – Jan 31	14 in.	Prohibited
	<b>P1:</b> Nets	Feb 01 – Apr 22	14 in.	w/o LOA: 500 lb.

	<b>P1: Nets</b>	Feb 01 – Apr 22	14 in.	w/ LOA: 1,000 lb. per week
	<b>P2: Nets</b>	Apr 23 – Jun 09	14 in.	100 lb.
	<b>P2: Longlines</b>	Apr 23 – Jun 09	14 in.	100 lb.
	<b>P2: Handlines or Rod &amp; Reel</b>	Apr 23 – Jun 09	14 in.	Prohibited
	<b>P2: Nets</b>	Jun 10 – Aug 14	14 in.	300 lb.
	<b>P2: Longlines</b>	Jun 10 – Aug 14	14 in.	200 lb.
	<b>P2: Handlines or Rod &amp; Reel</b>	Jun 10 – Aug 14	14 in.	200 lb.
Haddock ( <a href="#">3</a> )	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	16 in.	No Limit
Horseshoe Crabs ( <a href="#">6</a> )	Biomedical	Jan 01 – Dec 31	7 in.	1,000 crabs
	Mobile Gear	Jan 01 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	7 in.	300 crabs
	Other Gears	Jan 01 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	7 in.	400 crabs
Illex Squid ( <a href="#">7</a> )	All	Jan 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	No Limit	No Limit
Longfin Squid (Ioligo) ( <a href="#">7</a> )	All	Jan 01 – Apr 30	No Limit	No Limit
	All	May 01 – Jul 09	No Limit	No Limit
	All	Jul 10 – Aug 31	No Limit	No Limit

	All	Sep 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	No Limit	No Limit
Menhaden <a href="#">(8)</a>	Open Access	Jan 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	No Limit	6,000 lb.
	Limited Access	Jan 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	No Limit	125,000 lb. until 85% of quota harvested  25,000 lb. until 95% of quota harvested  6,000 lb. until 100% of quota harvested
Monkfish <a href="#">(3)</a> <a href="#">(9)</a>	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	17 in.	536 lb. tails, 1,560 lb. whole
Ocean Pout <a href="#">(3)</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Prohibited
Pollock <a href="#">(3)</a>	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	19 in.	No Limit
Redfish <a href="#">(3)</a>	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	7 in.	No Limit
<a href="#">Scup (10)</a>	Winter I	Jan 01 – Apr 30	9 in.	50,000 lb.
	Fish Weir	May 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	9 in.	No Daily Limit
	Trawlers	May 01 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	9 in.	10,000 lb. weekly limit
	Non-Trawl	May 01 – May 31	9 in.	800 lb.

	Non-Trawl	Jun 01 – Jun 30	9 in.	400 lb.
	Non-Trawl	Jul 01– <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	9 in.	1,500 lb.
	Winter II	Nov 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	9 in.	TBD
<a href="#">Smelt</a>	Hook & Line Only	Jun 16 – Mar 14	No Limit	50 fish
Smooth Dogfish	All Gears But Longlines	Jan 01 – Dec 31	No Limit	100 lb.
Spiny Dogfish	All Gears	May 01 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	No Limit	6,000 lb.
<a href="#">Striped Bass (11)</a>	Boat and lobster permits fishing from vessel named on the permit	Jun 26 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	34 in.	15 fish
	All other fishing activity	Jun 26 – <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	34 in.	2 fish
<a href="#">Tautog</a>	All	Sep 01 - <a href="#">Quota Dep.</a>	16 in.	40 fish
Weakfish	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	16 in.	100 lb.
Windowpane <a href="#">(3)</a>	All	N/A	N/A	Prohibited
Winter Flounder <a href="#">(3)</a>	Gulf of Maine	Jan 01 – Dec 31	12 in.	500 lb.
	Southern New England	Jan 01 – Dec 31	12 in.	50 lb.

Witch Flounder (3)	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	13 in.	750 lb.
Wolffish (3)	All	N/A	N/A	Prohibited
Yellowtail Flounder (3)	All	Jan 01 – Dec 31	12 in.	250 lb.

**Notes:**

**\* May be subject to change for 2017 based on Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission approval of emergency regulations on June 15, 2017.**

**Unless weekly aggregate limits apply, all trip limits apply per calendar day or per trip, whichever period of time is longest. For quota managed species, the trip limit additionally applies to the person, the permit holder or the vessel regardless of how many permits may be held.**

1) American eels are subject to regulation by the Division and the municipality. Please Consult Local Regulations.

2) Fish weirs are not subject to daily trip limits. However, the combined landings of all fish weirs are subject to a 15,000 pound annual sub-quota allocation. The fishery opens on the July 9th and remains open until the annual quota has been landed. Open fishing days are Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Black sea bass are to be measured from the tip of the snout or jaw to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

3) Groundfish species are regulated under the federal Northeast Multispecies Management Plan and federal rules apply beyond state waters. Federal permit holders may land groundfish in accordance with federal rules. The trip limits listed apply to State Waters Groundfish Endorsement holders and federally permitted vessels while fishing in state-waters. Commercial fishermen who do not hold a State Waters Groundfish Endorsement or federal limited entry permit may take up to 25-pounds of regulated groundfish per day while fishing in state waters. Fishing for groundfish or with gears capable of catching groundfish in state waters is subject various spatial/temporal closures, gear closures and spawning closures; please review 322 CMR 4.04, 4.06, 8.04, 8.05, 8.07, 8.09 and 12.04 for more details.

4) It is illegal to harvest cod from portions of Massachusetts Bay during the period of November 15 to January 31 ([Winter Cod Conservation Zone](#)) and April 16 to July 21 ([Spring Cod Conservation Zone](#)). See 322 CMR 8.07 for more details.

5) The P1 daily trip limits for nets is 500 lbs or vessels may obtain an LOA to land 1,000 lbs per week. The P1 trip limit is reduced to 100 lbs for all participants once 25% of the quota is landed. The P2 daily trip limit during for nets during the squid fishery (April 23 – June 9) is 100 lbs. P2 open fishing days after the squid fishery (June 10 – Quota) are Sunday – Thursday; during this period it is unlawful to land fluke on Friday and Saturday. Year-round it is unlawful to land fluke during the period of 8PM to 6AM.

6) A special permit for biomedical harvest is required to participate in the biomedical fishery. A bait fishery permit endorsement holder may not also hold a biomedical harvest special permit. All crabs harvested for

biomedical purposes may only sell the crabs to dealers authorized to purchase crabs harvested for biomedical purposes. After crabs are bled by the biomedical firm harvesters must return the crabs to the area of harvest. All horseshoe crab harvest is subject to 5-day closures around new and full moons from late April through June. Mobile gear participants are subject to closed days on Fridays and Saturdays beginning on June 10. Mobile gear fishing regulations are subject to change in 2017.

7) Illex and Longfin squid are regulated under the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Management Plan. Seasons and limits may be adjusted by the federal government. Visit [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov) for more details.

8) Any commercial fisherman may catch and land up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day. Commercial fishermen with a limited entry menhaden commercial permit endorsement may take menhaden under the higher trip limits described in the table above; these trip limits are adjusted based on quota availability. The 1,000 pound bycatch limit applies once 100% of the menhaden quota is taken and the fishery is closed; when the bycatch limit is in effect, menhaden landings cannot exceed 5% the total weight of the commercial catch. The use of nets within inshore waters is prohibited without an inshore net permit; the use of small bait nets of no more than 250 ft is authorized exempt from this prohibition – consult 322 CMR 4.02 for more details.

9) Monkfish may be processed at sea into tails and livers and landed as such products. Monkfish tails must be 11 inches in length and the total weight of monkfish tails may not exceed 536 pounds. The weight of monkfish livers must not exceed 25% the weight of monkfish tails being landed or 10% the weight of whole monkfish being landed.

10) Fish weirs are not subject to daily trip limits or closed fishing days. However, the combined landings of all fish weirs are subject to a 300,000 pound annual quota allocation. Trawlers may land scup 7-days per week. Hook and line and trap fishermen may land scup Sunday - Thursday during May; Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday in June; and then 7-days per week beginning on July 1. The Winter I and Winter II periods are managed by the federal government and seasons and limits are set by NMFS and complemented by DMF.

11) Striped bass may be taken by hook and line gear only; netting, spearing and snagging striped bass is prohibited (G.L. c. 130 §100B). High-grading and fillet striped bass is prohibited. Fishermen fishing under the authority of a commercial boat permit or lobster permit when fishing aboard the vessel named on the permit are subject to the 15-fish limit. However, fishermen fishing under the authority of a commercial boat permit or lobster permit when fishing from another location (e.g., shore or another vessel) are subject to the 2-fish limit. All Individual and Rod and Reel permit holders are subject to the 2-fish limit as well. The commercial striped bass open fishing days during the season are Monday and Thursday for all gear types. Possession limits apply to both permit holders, regardless of the number of permits held, and vessels, regardless of the number of permits on board.